

Message

From: Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/10/2019 10:46:57 PM
To: Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
Subject: Ag Update 98
Attachments: SSWR Webinar_22MAY19.pdf

Hello all,

This update includes the following topics:

1. EPA Holds Public Meeting (June 10) on Revisions to Draft Framework on Endangered Species Act Process for Pesticides.
2. Multi-Source Remote Sensing for Assessment and management of Surface Waters Webinar (May 22).
3. Trump Administration to Support Community Revitalization, Local Food Initiatives.
4. EPA Announces Availability of \$2.6 Billion in New Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure Across the United States.

Have a great weekend!

Rebecca Perrin

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1. EPA Holds Public Meeting (June 10) on Revisions to Draft Framework on Endangered Species Act Process for Pesticides. The EPA is seeking comment on draft revisions to the framework used to evaluate the impacts pesticides have on endangered species under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. The draft revisions would ensure this process is efficient, protective, transparent, and based on the best available science. The June 10 public meeting will be part of the federal government's coordinated effort to improve the Endangered Species Act (ESA) process that is used when pesticides are federally registered. New provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill call for the establishment of an interagency working group to provide recommendations and implement a strategy to improve the pesticide registration process. Input from the public meeting and the public comment period on the draft revised method will be used by the working group to make these improvements.

- The public meeting is on June 10, 2019, at its Potomac Yard South Building in Arlington, Virginia from 9 a.m. to Noon EDT in the lobby-level conference center.
 - Register by May 30 to attend in person or via teleconference/webinar: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-epa-public-meeting-on-revised-method-for-esa-pesticide-assessments-registration-61651229487>
 - Upon publication in the Federal Register, the EPA will accept public comments for 45 days in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0185 on the draft revised method on www.regulations.gov.
 - Draft revised method: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/draft-revised-method-national-level-endangered-species-risk-assessment-process>.
 - Under the ESA, federal agencies are required to determine whether their actions may affect endangered and threatened species and their designated critical habitat. Learn more at: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species>.
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2. Multi-Source Remote Sensing for Assessment and management of Surface Waters Webinar (May 22).

The EPA Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program invites you to this free webinar on Wed. May 22, 2019 from 2:00-3:00pm EST. Satellite imagery provides powerful datasets for understanding the dynamics of aquatic ecosystems across space and over time. ORD is a leader in applied research to develop powerful, cost-efficient tools using advanced remote sensing to assess and manage aquatic resources for a range of regulatory and non-regulatory purposes. Here we present recent research integrating remote sensing with widely-used geospatial tools to (1) assess restoration success in Western headwater streams; (2) quantify the effects of irrigation practices on riparian condition in the Upper Missouri River watershed; and (3) detect changes in wetland extent in Mid-Atlantic Region. [See attached flyer.](#)

3. Trump Administration to Support Community Revitalization, Local Food Initiatives. In support of the Trump Administration's Executive Order on Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America, the U.S. EPA joined the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and the Northern Border Regional Commission in announcing assistance to help 15 communities with revitalization strategies that boost the local economy, improve health, and protect the environment. The assistance is provided through Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP), a federal initiative that helps communities reinvest in existing neighborhoods and improve quality of life as they develop the local food economy. LFLP partner communities work with a team of agricultural, environmental, public health and regional economic development experts to set goals and identify local assets that can support the local food economy. Communities also develop an action plan and identify potential resources from the participating federal agencies to support implementation. Since its launch in 2014, LFLP has helped 93 communities across the country develop local food enterprises, such as farmers markets, community gardens and cooperative grocery stores, that improve environmental, economic and health outcomes.

The 2019 partner communities were selected from more than 70 applications. For more information on LFLP: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>.

4. EPA Announces Availability of \$2.6 Billion in New Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure Across the United States. The EPA announced the availability of \$2.6 billion in new funds to assist states, tribes and territories with improving drinking water and wastewater infrastructure across the country. The State Revolving Funds (SRFs) require state match, loan repayments, and interest that flows back to the funds. With more than 30 years of federal capitalization grants and state contributions, approximately \$80 billion has been invested into these programs. According to the agency's estimate of national drinking water and wastewater needs, over \$743 billion is needed for water infrastructure improvements. Through loan repayments and investment earnings, the SRFs have leveraged these contributions to provide more than \$170 billion in financial assistance to over 39,900 water quality infrastructure projects and 14,500 drinking water projects across the country.

- EPA is making available more than \$1 billion in new federal grant funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This funding can be used for loans that help drinking water systems install controls to treat contaminants such as PFAS and improve distribution systems by removing lead service lines. In addition, more than \$50 million in DWSRF grant funding is available to tribes, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia to use for drinking water system upgrades. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf>.
- EPA is also providing approximately \$1.6 billion in new federal grant funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). This funding is available for a wide range of water infrastructure projects, including modernizing aging wastewater infrastructure, implementing water reuse and recycling, and addressing stormwater. More than \$64 million in CWSRF grant funding is available to tribes, certain U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia for infrastructure projects. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>.